

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, April 22, 2010

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

Please note the minutes are a brief summary and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.

Jerry Lubin Chair, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Jerry Lubin

The meeting was called to order.

II. Roll Call – Canetana Hurd

Attendance recorded as follows:

- Absent Excused: Larry Gasco, Delores Huffman, Frank Baron, Lana Brody, Greg Thompson, Victoria Sofro, and Phillip Chen

III. Approval of Minutes – Jerry Lubin

ACTION TAKEN – Motion to approve the March 25, 2010 minutes with adjustments was passed. The motion was moved and seconded by Commissioners Wolff and Perrou.

IV. Chair's Report

Public Hearing – Jerry Lubin commented on the public hearing for MHSA Annual Plan update and Capital Facilities plan held April 8. Mr. Lubin requested staff to follow up with MHSA Planning Division to get copies of the comments made by the Commissioners at the hearing.

Nominations Committee – The Nominations Committee will provide a report at the May 2010.

Older Adults

George Caballero informed the Commission of his meeting with Carlotta Childs-Seagle, DMH Deputy Director of Older Adults Bureau to discuss a pilot project involving the Lennox Fire Station. Mr. Caballero stated the project will involve using DMH GENESIS program for linkages and referrals alleviating the Fire Department. Lennox Fire Station is the model because it is a high utilizer facility within the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

V. Commissioners' Reports

Barry Perrou announced the upcoming Stepping In conference and those Commissioners that want to attend RSVP as soon as possible.

Helen Wolff encouraged Commissioners to send in their nomination forms for the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 election.

Hayward McNeill thanked the Commission for the support and comforting words received during the loss of his loved one.

Delores Huffman submitted the following housing report:

MHSA Housing Program

Twenty-nine projects are actively participating in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program application process. The status of each project as of April 19, 2010 is shown below:

Developing Service Plan for Public Posting and Comment Period

- Avalon II Family Apartments

Preparing Technical Submission

- New Genesis Apartments
- Swarthy World Society Apartments

Technical Submission under Review

- VOALA Navy Village for Families
- Parkview on the Park Apartments
- David & Margaret Home, Inc. – Hope

Invitation to Submit Full Application

- Parker Hotel
- Bobbie Owens Family Living Community

Application Submitted to the State Pending Approval

- Willis Avenue Apartments
- KIWA Apartments
- PWC Family Housing
- Osborne Place Apartments
- Figueroa Apartments
- 28th St. YMCA Residences
- Step Up on Vine (Galaxy Hotel)
- NoHo Senior Villas

Approved for Funding by the State

- Young Burlington
- Courtyards in Long Beach
- Glenoaks Gardens
- Progress Place I and II
- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Villas at Gower
- Ford Apartments
- Caroline Severance Manor
- Daniel's Village
- Charles Cobb Apartments

- Epworth Apartments
- Horizon Apartments
- Menlo Family Housing

Open for Occupancy

- Daniel's Village
- Charles Cobb Apartments

Housing Trust Fund Program

Of the 12 Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Program awardees, eight housing projects are in operation as of April 19, 2010. Through the HTF Program, supportive services are being provided to approximately 200 tenants residing in permanent supportive housing. The provision of services assists formerly homeless tenants maintain their housing and pursue their recovery goals. Originally scheduled to open March 2010, the Bonnie Brae Apartments' opening has been delayed due to issues related to the project-based subsidies awarded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Construction has begun for Project Home, the Downtown Women's Center housing project. Project Home is scheduled to open in December 2010. The remaining projects, Glenoaks Gardens Apartments and Mini Twelve Step are slated to open in winter 2011.

Ongoing & Upcoming Activities

Housing Assistance Program

Through its housing assistance programs, the Department provides financial resources for clients moving into housing from homelessness by paying the security deposit and purchasing the basic essentials to furnish their apartment. From July 2009 to March 29, 2010, the housing assistance programs, funded by Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) and MHSA, served 424 clients and/or their families. Specifically, the Department provided financial resources to:

- 191 clients and/or their families with the security deposit at the time of move-in;
- 164 clients and/or their families with purchasing household goods;
- 16 client with eviction prevention; and
- 53 clients with ongoing rental assistance.

Emergency Food and Shelter Program

Under the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP), the Department was awarded \$62,000 for emergency motel and food vouchers. Upon receipt of this award, these resources will be available

countywide through our directly operated clinics to provide emergency shelter and food for individuals and families.

VI. Special Presentation

Los Angeles City Department of Aging, Laura Trejo, General Manager

Ms. Trejo is largely responsible for the City of Los Angeles Department of Aging. The department advocates for older adults and family caregivers, serve as a portal to care, and catalyst for service delivery. Services include information and access, community-based, in-home, elder rights, and family caregiver supports.

Ms. Trejo's presentation focused on the following:

- City of Los Angeles ranks second most populated with persons age 65 and older in the nation. Baby boomers reach age 60 every 7 seconds which gives LA the largest concentration of older adults. By the year 2040 older adult citizens will reach 3 million. One third of California seniors live in the City and County of Los Angeles which is home to more than 140 countries who speak a minimum of 224 languages and dialects. Services have become more diverse to meet the needs of this large and unique emerging market.

Ms. Trejo discussed mental health risk factors and collaborations with agencies that address issues and solutions to service delivery challenges.

- Mental health risk factors for older adults:
31,000 were unable to receive mental health care and could not afford it
29% report a range of problems with isolation
10.9% reported depression
In 2006, 24% of all suicides were age 60+ (Coroner's report)
- Partnerships to address issues and solve service delivery challenges:
SCAN Health Plan – programming at local MultiPurpose centers providing Wii play station
Partners in Care – evidence based coordination grant
OASIS Institute – enrichment program at three sites
- Transformation Think Tank – Executive Managers meet quarterly to develop strategies on a regional level with county and city agencies to create a process for Los Angeles to become a good place to grow old

New Grant Opportunities

- Funding for evidence-based health program to further implement self managing chronic diseases
- New public transportation for ADA providing door-through-door services for frail citizens

- Temporary transportation for low income citizens to respond to employment opportunities

VII. Departmental Report – Dr. Marvin J. Southard, Director

Dr. Southard reported on the following budget and celebration issues:

- The budget deficit continues to close slightly because of the increase in sales revenue. State budget is still critical particularly pertaining to the maintenance of effort requirement for MHSA. County budget proposed 131 layoffs. The expectation is layoffs will be reduced to 0 because \$51 million will be generated in various workforce and benefits adjustments.
- May 20 & 21 celebration – Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health was established in 1960; 2010 celebrates 50 years of service to the community. The Department is planning 3-events:
 1. May 20 is free. Scheduled events are:
 - MHSA Training to focus on Veterans Services and Suicide Prevention
 - Ongoing interactive archive displays of the history of mental health through website, videos, transcripts of interviews, visuals, and a historical tribute to past DMH Directors
 2. MHC Annual Award luncheon will honor outstanding programs and volunteers in the mental health field. Actress and advocate Mariette Hartley is special guest.
 3. May 21 at UCLA. A academic and public forum collaboration for research on mental health recovery and wellness. Special presentations on:
 - health care reform
 - white papers from USC, UCLA, and Berkley professors
 - breakout session and panel discussions
 - dinner and policy forum
- **Legislative Report – Susan Rajlal, Legislative Analyst**

Ms. Rajlal updated the Commission on legislative issues involving Senate rejections and budget gaps that pertain to mental health. Ms. Rajlal also discussed two particular bills; AB 2645 and AB 2234. AB 2645 expands current law which imposes a reimbursement rate freeze on specified skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to include institutions for mental illnesses licensed as SNFs. AB 2234 creates a separate population for older adults and redefines the eligibility criteria for mental health services to better reflect the functional needs of older adults. Ms. Rajlal requested letters of support from the Commission on these two bills.

MOTION – A motion was made and carried unanimously by the Commission to write support letters addressing AB 2645 and AB 2234. The motion was moved and seconded by Commissioners Caballero and Sosa).

VIII. Community and SAAC (Service Area Advisory Committee) Reports

SAAC 2 - Roberta Burkenheim, SAAC Representative, reported on the following:

- SAAC met at the beginning of the month on the 2nd Tuesday
- William Lemley is the Champion Award recipient. He is also being considered for a coordinator position.
- The service area continues to develop its history board for the DMH 50th Anniversary celebration. The history board will include a memoriam in honor of community leaders who have passed away.
- The service area is moving on a DMH recommendation to seek available Medi-cal trainings that pertain to employment and other services.
- NAMIWalk events will include trip to Disneyland and an art exhibit

SAAC 3 – Terry Lewis announced the activities taking place in Service Area 3 for “May is Mental Health Month on behalf of Bruce Boardman, SAAC Chair.

SAAC 6 - Dorothy Banks, Co-Chair, reported on the following:

- The April meeting was cancelled to attend the Empowerment and Advocacy Conference; the service area received an award at conference
- Ms. Banks spoke at the Nutrition class in an effort to promote healthy eating. The class teaches healthy foods eaten for enjoyment and was held in the Wellness Center. Seventeen people attended the last class.

IX. Public Comments –

- **Maria Elena Juarez** – discussed a negative situation that reoccurring when she attempt to speak with a DMH employee at 695 Headquarters regarding the Latino Coalition.
- **Rosita Garcia** – was not invited to the advocacy conference and asked for clarification of conference scholarship and registration process.
- **Martha Montelongo** – discussed issues regarding Latino Coalition participation in DMH conferences. The volunteer and scholarship processes are not transparent even when asking for information.
- **Phyllis Coto** – suggested DMH adopt a policy to address bad treatment or exhibiting hateful behavior toward consumers.

X. Meeting Adjourned

XI. PLEASE NOTE NEXT MEETING LOCATION

**Thursday, May 27, 2010
Noon – 2:30 pm
500 W. Temple Street
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration - Room 739
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if you need more information

Submitted by Canetana Hurd